

## Message Text

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70

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 NASA-01 OES-06

CU-02 USIA-06 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /082 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA/WGIM/MJ

APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

EA - LEDMOND

AID/AA/ASIA - AGARDINER

EB/TCA/TD - GHUFFCUTT (DRAFT)

NASA/CODE/CS - WLEW (DRAFT)

AID/AA/TA - JCHANDLER

OES/APT/SA - IPIKUS (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 210072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, ASEAN

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SERVICE FOR THE  
PHILIPPINES AND OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES

REF: MANILA 11803; MANILA 12746

1. IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT MARCOS' REQUEST TO AMBASSA-  
DOR SULLIVAN ON AUGUST 7 (REFTEL) FOREIGN SECRETARY  
ROMULO SENT MESSAGE ON AUGUST 9 TO DEPUTY SECRETARY  
ROBINSON REQUESTING COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE SERVICE FOR  
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RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF PHILIPPINES AND OTHER ASEAN COUN-

TRIES. (TEXT OF ROMULO MESSAGE SENT SEPTTEL.) THESE GOP REQUESTS WERE APPARENTLY BASED ON INACCURATE INFORMATION THAT APPLICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE (ATS-6) MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH ASSIGNMENT. THIS IS SIMPLY NOT THE CASE AS NASA OWNED ATS-6 WAS PREPROGRAMMED SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO RETURN TO WESTERN HEMISPHERE FOR NEW TASKS UPON COMPLETION ITS EXPERIMENTAL ROLE IN INDIA.

2. AT ITS NEW LOCATION OVER PACIFIC OCEAN OFF LATIN AMERICA (APPROXIMATELY 140 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE) ATS-6 IS COMMITTED TO CARRY OUT DOMESTIC US EDUCATION AND HEALTH CARE DIRECT BROADCASTING EXPERIMENTAL TASKS. NEW

LOCATION WILL BE BEYOND RANGE OF PHILIPPINES AND ASEAN COUNTRIES. WE HAVE THUS ASCERTAINED FROM NASA THAT NEITHER ATS-6 NOR ANY OTHER USG SATELLITE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO SERVICE THE GOP REQUESTS.

3. DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE THAT WE BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE TO THE PHILIPPINE REQUEST AND WE REALIZE THAT GOP LEADERS ARE LIKELY TO BE DISAPPOINTED THAT PREPROGRAMMED SCHEDULE OF ATS-6 PRECLUDES SUCH USE.

4. AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN IS REQUESTED TO CONVEY IN APPROPRIATE FORM THE FOLLOWING REPLY FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON TO FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO:

"DEAR SECRETARY ROMULO:

I READ WITH KEEN INTEREST YOUR MESSAGE OF AUGUST 9 REQUESTING THE RE-POSITIONING OF COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ATS-6 SO AS TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFER OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION TO RURAL AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER ASEAN NATIONS. MY PERSONAL AND IMMEDIATE INQUIRY WAS MADE TO THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE AGENCY (NASA), WHICH HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE SATELLITE, ABOUT THE AVAILABILITY OF ATS-6 FOR THE PURPOSES YOU PROPOSED.

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NASA HAS INFORMED ME THAT ATS-6 HAS BEGUN ITS HOMEWARD JOURNEY FROM THE EASTERN TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROGRAM SCHEDULED SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND IT IS COMMITTED TO BE RELOCATED OVER THE PACIFIC OCEAN OFF LATIN AMERICA TO CARRY OUT DOMESTIC US HEALTH AND EDUCATION EXPERIMENTS. AT ITS NEW POSITION IT WOULD BE OUTSIDE OF THE RANGE OF THE PHILIPPINES. THUS, REGRETFULLY NEITHER ATS-6 OR ANY OTHER NASA SATELLITE

WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR THE SERVICES DESIRED.

WE FULLY APPRECIATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE TRANSFER OF ADVANCED SPACE AGE TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS AN ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT AND BROAD FIELD IN WHICH COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT PART. RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS KIND OF TECHNOLOGY TO THE PHILIPPINES AS WELL AS OTHER ASEAN COUNTRIES, I HAVE ASKED FOR A CAREFUL REVIEW TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF PROVIDING THE KIND OF SERVICES IN WHICH YOU HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST, AND I WILL BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH YOU SHORTLY WHEN I HAVE THE RESULTS OF THIS EFFORT.

LET ME EXPRESS AGAIN HOW MUCH I APPRECIATED OUR CONVERSATIONS DURING MY RECENT VISIT TO MANILA. WITH WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, SINCERELY, CHARLES W. ROBINSON, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE."

5. (FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH IS FYI ONLY AND IS NOT RPT NOT TO BE CONVEYED TO GOP OR OTHER FOREIGN OFFICIALS: ON JULY 7 INDONESIA LAUNCHED ITS OWN COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE, PALAPA ONE AND WILL LAUNCH SECOND SATELLITE IN 1977. INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD DEPTOFFS AUGUST 20 THAT PALAPA ONE WILL HAVE NO UNUSED CAPACITY BUT THAT PALAPA TWO WILL HAVE SOME. WE ARE, HOWEVER, IN THE PROCESS OF ASCERTAINING WHETHER SURPLUS CAPACITY MAY BE AVAILABLE ON EITHER OF THESE SATELLITES AND FEASIBILITY OF UTILIZING SUCH TO ACCOMMODATE PHILIPPINE INTEREST. THIS WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO VARIOUS ASPECTS OF COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WHICH AID IS IN POSITION TO DISCUSS AND EXPLORE WITH GOP BUT WHICH E DO NOT WISH TO BRING UP WITH GOP LEADERS AS YET. END CONFIDENTIAL

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FYI.)

6. WE SUGGEST THAT FOR HIS INTERIM REPLY TO PRESIDENT MARCOS, AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN DRAW ON APPROPRIATE PARTS OF THE ABOVE (LESS PARA 5). KISSINGER

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